(a) whether the Army have received an offer from the Coca Cola Company to give educational scholarships to children of army employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how Government propose to utilise the offer fully as a welfare measure for the families of Army Jawans?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Coca Cola Company, India has made an offer to provide 500 scholarships of Rs. 5,000/- each to the children of Army personnel studying in Classes X to XII of Army Schools, being run by the Army Welfare Education Society, registered under the Societies Act. Applications will be called from the wards of army personnel and a list of children on merit cum means will be drawn up for consideration of award of scholarships.

News-items captioned 'Arms Deal in the making[1]

2165. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item in Frontline dated the 16th August, 2002 on 'Arms deal in the making'; and

(b) if so, what is the progress in this matter and the time-frame for induction of new artillery system?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) Various proposals to acquire state-of-the-art 155mm Artillery Guns are at present under consideration. No final decision has yet been taken in this regard.

Complaints received by Station Commander, Nasirabad

2166. SHRI MUNNAVVAR HASAN:
SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Station Commander of Nasirabad in

the capacity of Chairman of Schools has received complaints against the Principals during preceding three years;

(b) if so, the details case-wise/complaints-wise;

(c) what action has been taken in each case; and

(d) whether Chairman/Station Commanders have sent the cases to their higher authorities along with his recommendations and the out-comes in each case?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) Details of the complaints received by the Station Commander, Nasirabad.

One anonymous complaint was received by Station Commander, Nasirabad on 18th November 2001 against Principal and others pertaining to Army School, Nasirabad. The complaint contained the following allegations:—

(i) Irregularity in the appointment of Principal and teachers.

(ii) Improrpriety in selection of councellor and administrative officer.

(iii) Financial mismangement.

(iv) Implementation of Project for improvement of school.

(v) Cleanliness of Toilets

(vi) Involvement of husband of Principal in the purchase of computer.

(vii) Interference by Col Sagar, husband of the Principal, in the affairs of the school.

(viii) Non performance of duties by Principal and Honorary Secretary.

(ix) Recruitment of additional Group 'D' staff.

2. The complaint has been investigated by Headquarters, Southern Command and also at the Army Headquarters. The allegations were found to be without any substance. Therefore, these were not pursued further. However, the recruitment of additional Group 'D' employees was reviewed and one more Gardner (Mali) was approved to be employed by the School Management Committee.